

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1085

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SE, KE

SUBJECT: KENYA-SEYCHELLES RELATIONS: SEYCHELLOIS REACTION
TO PRESS REPORT

REF: NAIROBI 12047

1. ON AUG 14, SEYCHELLES MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TOURISM ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING REUTER'S
REPORT QUOTING PRESIDENT RENE AS ALLEGING THAT KENYA HAD
HARBORED MERCENARIES INVOLVED IN MAY COUP D'ETAT IN
COMOROS AND PLANNED COUNTER-COUP OPERATION IN SEYCHELLES:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES WISHES TO
RECTIFY CERTAIN POINTS CONTAINED IN A STATEMENT ISSUED BY
THE KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AUGUST 10 AND CORRECT A
MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH HAS ARISEN FOLLOWING AN INTERVIEW
BETWEEN THE NAIROBI REUTER CORRESPONDENT AND PRESIDENT RENE.

"AT NO TIME, DURING THE INTERVIEW OR IN ANY OTHER STATEMENT,
DID THE PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES ACCUSE KENYA OF HAVING
HARBOURED AND PROVIDED TRAINING FACILITIES FOR AN ALLEGED
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NUMBER OF MERCENARIES.

"WHAT THE PRESIDENT DID SAY WAS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
INFORMATION THAT SOME MERCENARIES WERE TRAINED ON SOME
PRIVATE ESTATES IN KENYA, BUT NOT NECESSARILY WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE KENYA GOVERNMENT.

"THE SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT HAS NEVER MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, BUT CERTAIN INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE HAS REVEALED THERE WERE CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN KENYA INVOLVING MERCENARIES WHO PLANNED TO STAGE A COUNTER-COUP IN SEYCHELLES. THE GOVERNMENT CATEGORICALLY DENIES HAVING MADE ANY STATEMENT ACCUSING KENYA OR TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE KENYA GOVERNMENT."

2. ACCORDING GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER "NATION", MFA ALSO DENIED "ANOTHER INACCURACY" REPORTEDLY CONTAINED IN REUTER'S REPORT WHICH SUGGESTED THAT TANZANIA PROVIDED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AT TIME OF JUNE 5, 1977 COUP D'ETAT. MFA STATEMENT POINTS OUT: "THE TANZANIAN MILITARY ADVISORS ARRIVED IN THE SEYCHELLES AFTER LIBERATION TO TRAIN THE SEYCHELLES LIBERATION ARMY ONLY. THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN SEYCHELLES." "NATION" ALSO REPORTED THAT MINISTER OF WORKS AND PORT PHILIBERT LOIZEAU DENIED THAT PRESIDENT RENE HAD MADE ANY ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GOK WHILE LOIZEAU WAS IN MOMBASSA LAST WEEK FOR SHIPPING TALKS.

3. KENYAN-SEYCHELLOIS CONTRETEMPS WAS SOURCE OF LIVELY DISCUSSION AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE LOUNGE PRECEDING RENE'S AUG 13 DEPARTURE FOR STATE VISIT TO TANZANIA. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE JACQUES HODOUL TOLD CHARGE

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RENE WAS EXTREMELY UPSET AT REUTER'S ARTICLE. ACCORDING HODOUL, ARTICLE TOTALLY MISREPRESENTED RENE'S INTERVIEW WITH REUTER REPORTER. OTHER GOS MINISTERS PRESENT MADE POINT OF STRESSING THAT SEYCHELLES' GOVERNMENT IS DESIROUS OF IMPROVING ITS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "FALSE REPORT" WOULD NOT PROVE SETBACK TO THIS PROCESS. RECENTLY, MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BERLOUIS TOLD ME THAT SEYCHELLES AND KENYA WERE PLANNING TO EXCHANGE GOODWILL MISSIONS IN NEAR FUTURE.
MATTSON

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